

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/771,299	NOMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ricky L. Mack	2873	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to _____.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. The drawings filed on 05 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 0504
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Georgia Epps
 Georgia Epps
 Supervisory Patent Examiner
 Technology Center 2800
 Number of Allowability

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1-11 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art taken either singularly or in combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations of the independent claim(s), in such a manner that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 would be proper. The prior art fails to teach a combination of all the claimed features as presented in claim(s) 1-11, wherein the claimed invention comprises a lens frame to which a lens group is fixed, at least one movable annular member, a light shield member being supported by the movable annular member while restricting a rearward movement limit of the light shield member relative to the movable annular member, and a biasing member which is positioned between the light shield member and the lens frame in a compressed fashion to bias the light shield member toward the rearward movement limit thereof relative to the movable annular member, as claimed. The combination of all the claimed features are not anticipated or made obvious by the prior art and all of said features are relied upon for a determination of allowability.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following references are cited for being related references (inventive entity

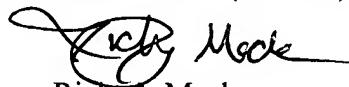
Art Unit: 2873

and/or assignee) which disclose the same/similar structure but does not claim the same invention and are not prior art: Nomura et al. (20040156122, 20040156123, 20040156127, 20040160679, 20040160683). The following references are cited for disclosing a lens barrel having light limited means and other related structure, but the references do not disclose a lens frame to which a lens group is fixed, at least one movable annular member, a light shield member being supported by the movable annular member while restricting a rearward movement limit of the light shield member relative to the movable annular member, and a biasing member which is positioned between the light shield member and the lens frame in a compressed fashion to bias the light shield member toward the rearward movement limit thereof relative to the movable annular member, as claimed: Iwasa (6256458), Takanashi et al. (6324019) and Yasutomi et al. (20040228006).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ricky L. Mack whose telephone number is (571) 272-2333. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (6:30 AM to 4:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Y. Epps can be reached on (571) 272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ricky L Mack
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2873

RM
March 7, 2005